

TELEPHONE CALLS
Washington - April 7th

The President called the Secretary of State who was in Hobe Sound. He said he felt the thinking was not too clear on the matter of Berlin and Summit negotiations. He developed his thesis by saying we now claim we can destroy the Russian nation even if it is suicide on our part. How are we ever going to be able to scale our programs down?

Dulles said he thought there were some things we could do to show we were not frightened; the President mentioned flying to Berlin at a specific altitude -- said it was our right but the Russians had never admitted it.

Dulles said he didn't think we were going to reach a settlement, but what you can do is patch things up and prevent them from becoming acute -- and keep things out of war. He stressed how important it was to have world opinion behind him -- to convince the world that we are only striving for all the world for liberty, independence. We have got to get the initiative.

In this terrific armament race we must, the President said, have some little bit of a hope -- even if only in controlling atmospher tests. He said "in the long run there is nothing but war -- if we give up all hope of a peaceful solution." He said it was sort of like trying to carry water on both shoulders.

Later the President called the Acting Secretary of State merely to tell him he could always be reached in Augusta. Said not to worry -- he could always be found. Said that Dulles had reported he was stronger, but had not gained weight.